

Minutes of a Regular Meeting of the Council of the Town of Blackstone, Virginia, held in the Council Chambers located at 100 W. Elm Street, Blackstone, Virginia, on Monday, August 11, 2008, at 7:00 p.m.

There Were Present:

Mayor: William D. Coleburn

Council Members: L. Benjamin Green, John W. Hill, Jr., C. Duncan Quicke, Barbara Thompson, Alfred V. Tucker, J. A. Wilson, Jr., Constance T. Wynn

Town Attorney: Kennon C. Walden, Jr.

Town Staff: Jennifer H. Beck, Administrative Assistant; David Dunn, Assistant Town Manager; Nicholas C. Kuzmiak, Police Chief; J. Larry Palmore, Town Manager; Joan R. Palmore, Town Clerk; Charles C. Wells, Finance Director

Those Absent: None

Mayor Coleburn called the meeting to order and Councilman Hill led in prayer.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

Mayor Coleburn led those in the Chambers in the Pledge of Allegiance.

MINUTES

Councilman Hill made a motion to dispense with reading and approve as presented the Minutes of the July 21, 2008, Council Meetings. The motion was seconded by Councilman Quicke and approved unanimously. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye

VISITORS

1. Drake Bishop addressed Council and thanked the Council for the work that has been done lately in Blackstone. The Medical Center, Castles Trailer Park, etc. He stated that there is a project that has been put off that needs to be brought back to Council's attention which is the ball park. He also spoke to Council about safety issues— specifically no sidewalks on Oak Street. He talked to Council about a blind resident, Jennifer Fender, on Oak Street and then introduced her to Council.

Ms. Fender stated that the school will provide transportation to take the children to school but she is finding it difficult to get around on Oak Street because of the open fields and the streets.

Mayor Coleburn thanked Mrs. Fender for coming to the meeting.

Drake Bishop spoke to Council regarding the Americans with Disabilities Act. He read a portion of that Act. He stated there is no accessible route to get to the ballfield or the school. He suggested grant money from the ADA to put in sidewalks. He thanked Council for allowing him to speak tonight.

Councilwoman Thompson entered the meeting.

Manager Palmore spoke to Mrs. Fender and suggested that she could call BABS if she needed to get somewhere. She could also call the Blackstone Police Dept in an emergency and they could get her to the school or she could call someone at the Town Office. He explained that we did apply for a safe route for schools in conjunction with the Nottoway County School Board and he will contact the County to see where we are on this.

Mayor Coleburn thanked Drake Bishop for coming to the meeting and addressing Council.

Councilwoman Wynn thanked the Town Manager and staff for what they did to help out with the Wynn, Epes Jackson family reunion.

Mayor Coleburn read the attached Resolution thanking Morgan Quicke for his hard work as an Intern with the Bus System.

Manager Palmore stated that Morgan will cheer you up no matter what and he is a very hard worker. He added that Morgan has helped us with some things here in the office as well.

2. Anderine Banks spoke to Council regarding a basketball court on Irvin and Harris Street. She asked when is the Town going to try and have some recreation for the children in Blackstone. She wants to know what the Council and Mayor are going to do for the youth in Blackstone.

Mayor Coleburn answered that the Recreation Association does have a basketball, baseball and softball program for the youth in the community. He talked about the dates to sign-up for each.

Manager Palmore stated that many years ago the Rotary Club went out and put up basketball goals in different neighborhoods and we got so many complaints about the cussing, fussing and fighting that we had to take them all down. He added that this Town Council is committed to recreation but the Town needs more money. He stated that we just need to work together.

Mayor Coleburn stated that the school system is going to build three new gymnasiums in the County with a new gym planned for each locality-- Blackstone, Crewe and Burkeville, so this will be a big help.

Mrs. Banks asked does the Town have any provision for the elderly as far as their light bills.

Mayor Coleburn recommended that the individuals contact an organization called HELP.

Councilwoman Wynn stated that the Town does have a provision for the elderly. They need to contact the Town Office and we will work with them.

Manager Palmore explained that because this is a public utility, the Council's hands are tied to a degree because these are public funds. He added that we will work with the elderly the best we can within the Town's policy guidelines. He added that if someone has a medical excuse or reason they need the power on then we need that information at the office. He stated that he understands Ms. Banks concerns.

FIRE CHIEF'S REPORT

There was no report from the Fire Department for this month due to a scheduling conflict.

PAYMENT OF BILLS

Councilman Hill made a motion to pay the bills in the amount of \$605,347.11. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson.

Discussion: Councilman Hill asked about the fuel adjustment charge. This issue was discussed further. Manager Palmore stated that we paid more for electricity this past month than we ever have in the Town.

The motion made and seconded was approved as follows.

Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Councilwoman Wynn stated that the Health and Ordinance Committee will have something to report at the next Council Meeting.

Manager Palmore asked the Council to take a moment to remember Dave Foley who worked at Fort Pickett for many years. Mr. Foley passed away last Thursday. Manager Palmore stated that he always tried to look out for the Town and for Fort Pickett. Mr. Foley was a pleasure to work with and a great individual.

REPORT ON MEDICAL CENTER

Manager Palmore stated that he spoke to Jack Roberts at Kenbridge Construction. The metal is being formed and hopefully we will see them move in this week or the beginning of next week. This will be a wooden frame building with brick all the way. He added that we are making application to the USDA on the generator.

Councilman Hill asked have we gotten the final document from Bon-Secours.

Manager Palmore answered that we have gotten a letter of intent but no final document.

VRS RESOLUTION

Attorney Walden reported that he went back and read the IRS regulations in the Virginia Code. Basically we have a situation that if we pass this Resolution, the Town will be protected. This has to be viewed as coming from the member even though it is being paid by the Town. It is a transition. He sees no harm in adopting this Resolution.

Councilwoman Wynn made a motion to adopt the attached VRS Resolution. The motion was seconded by Councilman Green and approved unanimously. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye

SALARY STUDY

Councilman Quicke asked this be turned over to the Employment Committee and he will be happy to share any information with them.

Mayor Coleburn referred this to the Employment Committee.

RATIFY POLL TAKEN ON JULY 22, 2008 - Move August Council Meeting

Councilman Quicke made a motion to ratify the following poll taken on July 22, 2008, to move the August Council Meeting to August 11, 2008.

Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye

The motion to ratify was seconded by Councilman Tucker and approved as follows. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye

RATIFY POLL TAKEN ON JULY 22, 2008 - Southside Electric

Councilman Hill made a motion to ratify the following poll taken on July 22, 2008, authorizing the Town Manager to hire Jack Boswell with Boswell and Williamson to handle the legal issues involved with swapping territory between the Town and Southside Electric and for the Town and Southside Electric to share the cost 50/50.

Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	<i>(Unable to contact)</i>

The motion to ratify was seconded by Councilwoman Thompson and approved as follows. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye

WARD TRANSFORMER

Assistant Town Manager Dunn reported to Council that about two or three months after we were notified of the Carolina Transformer issue we received a letter from a company regarding Ward Transformer. He doesn't believe we are in much jeopardy with Ward Transformer and his recommendation is to do nothing right now.

Councilman Green made a motion not to participate in any type of litigation or payment to Ward Transformer. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tucker and approved as follows. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye

Councilwoman Thompson - Aye
Councilman Tucker - Aye

ON GOING PROJECTS:

Bus Shop - looking great– have got to get the parking lot figured out.

Downtown Revitalization - Lafayette Dickens addressed Council regarding a booklet that he has handed out which is the Virginia Main Street 2007 Annual Report. He reviewed the document with Council. He is excited to report that they have completed the process of reviewing the facades which is a major phase in the downtown revitalization.

Castles Trailer Park - Administrative Assistant Beck reported that we had the bid opening this morning. Two of the lots will be awarded to one contractor and two more lots will be awarded to another contractor. We hope to begin construction within the next two weeks. They have 60 days to complete the work. In September the second big package will go out and we hope to have this project complete by January.

IDENTITY THEFT POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

Manager Palmore stated that we are required to come up with an identity theft policy because we provide electricity to our customers we are considered a creditor. He stated that Assistant Town Manager Dunn worked on the policy and Manager Palmore he recommends that Council adopt this policy.

Council discussed this further.

Councilman Green made a motion to adopt the attached Identity Theft Policy and Procedures document. The motion was seconded by Councilman Hill and approved unanimously. Vote:

Councilman Quicke - Aye
Councilwoman Wynn - Aye
Councilman Green - Aye
Councilman Wilson - Aye
Councilman Hill - Aye
Councilwoman Thompson - Aye
Councilman Tucker - Aye

AGREEMENT FOR REHABILITATION SPECIALIST SERVICES

Councilman Hill asked about the terms of the agreement with regards to how much Earl Howerton is getting paid. He asked is this going to cost the Town.

Manager Palmore answered no sir. This will be paid for through the grant.

Councilman Wilson asked is Mr. Howerton getting paid 50% before he has really done anything.

Manager Palmore answered no sir. He has already put in a lot work before he gets paid anything.

Councilman Wilson asked will the Town be protected.

Manager Palmore answered yes sir because he has done more than 50% of the work before he gets any money. He feels we are in great shape.

Council discussed this further.

Councilwoman Wynn made a motion to adopt the attached Agreement for Rehabilitation Specialist Services. The motion was seconded by Councilman Tucker and approved unanimously. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye

CONTRACT FOR PROJECT ADMINISTRATION FOR CASTLES TRAILER PARK

Councilman Hill made a motion to adopt the attached Contract for Project Administration for Castles Trailer Park. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Thompson and approved as follows. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye

Councilman Hill - Aye
Councilwoman Thompson - Aye
Councilman Tucker - Aye

Manager Palmore requested that the Finance Committee meet tomorrow afternoon and to continue this meeting to Wednesday the 13th at 5:00 p.m.

MAYOR'S MINUTE

Mayor Coleburn asked did all the members of Council get an invitation to the Legislative Breakfast on September 4th. He stated that we aren't going to conduct any business other than Chamber business.

Mayor Coleburn stated that the Recreation Association has contacted him and stated that we have not paid the Recreation Association the \$2,000 we usually pay them every year that we get from the County.

Manager Palmore answered that is correct and we have since found out that the County did not pay us for 2005 and we will get on this. The County changed the time frame of when they paid us so that is where the confusion came in.

Mayor Coleburn also spoke to Council regarding the bathrooms at Wrigglesworth Stadium.

He informed Council about the capital improvements and expansion the Virginia United Methodist Assembly Center is planning.

MISCELLANEOUS

Councilman Hill stated Steve Ferguson gave him a letter today about the Regional Water Supply. The County is applying for more grant money on this study. Mr. Ferguson asked that the Town pass the attached Resolution so he can submit this request for funding. He added that it will not obligate the Town for any money.

Councilwoman Wynn made a motion to adopt the attached Resolution on the Regional Water Supply. The motion was seconded by Councilman Wilson and approved as follows. Vote:

Councilman Quicke - Aye
Councilwoman Wynn - Aye
Councilman Green - Aye
Councilman Wilson - Aye
Councilman Hill - Aye

Councilwoman Thompson - Aye
Councilman Tucker - Aye

Councilman Hill stated that this is for a Regional Water Supply Plan.

Manager Palmore stated that this was approved about two years ago. If we hadn't partnered with the County we would have had to pay for it ourselves.

Councilwoman Thompson requested that everyone watch out for children on Second and Third Streets and she also wants a noise ordinance signs placed on Second and Third Streets.

Councilman Green asked about recycling.

Manager Palmore stated that he will talk to County Administrator Roark about meeting with him on this.

Councilman Hill stated that the County is talking right now about having a drop at the high school for batteries and electronics.

Councilman Green asked is the check book balanced.

Manager Palmore answered, yes sir it is balanced.

POLICE REPORT

Manager Palmore reported that dispatcher Chris Klocke will be retiring September 1st. We plan to have a retirement dinner for him soon. He will let Council know when.

Mayor Coleburn thanked the Police Chief for all his hard work on the Night-Out Against Crime.

CITIZEN'S COMMENTS

Mr. Sam Moncure asked can we keep the check book balanced on a monthly basis.

Manager Palmore answered, yes sir.

CLOSED SESSION

Councilman Green made a motion to go into Closed Session according to the following.

Virginia Code Session 2.2-3711

Sub Section A.

- Legal Matters
- Personnel

The motion was seconded by Councilman Quicke and approved unanimously. Vote:

Councilman Quicke	-	Aye
Councilwoman Wynn	-	Aye
Councilman Green	-	Aye
Councilman Wilson	-	Aye
Councilman Hill	-	Aye
Councilwoman Thompson	-	Aye
Councilman Tucker	-	Aye

Mayor Coleburn declared the meeting back in Open Session.

Councilman Green made a motion to certify that to the best of each member's knowledge only public business matters lawfully exempted from open meeting requirements and only such public business matters as were identified in the motion by which the Closed Meeting was convened, were heard, discussed or considered in the meeting. The motion was seconded by Councilwoman Wynn and approved as follows. Vote: All Ayes

Mayor Coleburn continued the meeting to Wednesday, August 13th at 5:00 p.m.

MAYOR
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

_____ APPROVED AND ADOPTED

TOWN CLERK
OF THE TOWN OF BLACKSTONE, VIRGINIA

